Assessment Rubric – Philosophy 103: Intro to Ethics

Have you read the assignment and understood what you’re being asked to do?
No: Nothing you’ve written reflects an understanding of the assignment.
Developing: You’re on the right track but you need to clarify some of your ideas. You may want to reread parts of the assignment.
Absolutely: You’ve understood all that is being asked of you.

Have you recognized and summarized the problem?
No: You have not recognized the problem and are possibly confused by the issue.
Developing: Your summary shows that you have recognized the problem but only in its most basic form. You should consider the complexity of the problem.
Absolutely: Your recognition of the problem is clear from your detailed summary and you consider some of the subtleties of the issue.

Where are you in the paper?
Nowhere: You’ve simply repeated what you’ve heard in class without thinking about what you’re saying.
Hiding in there somewhere: You have something to say but it’s hiding among direct quotes. Think about the problem, consider what others have said and then tell me what YOU think.
BANG! Right in the middle: You have considered both your own experience and your research to draw your own conclusions. You present your conclusions clearly.

What have you done with your research?
Very little: You’ve regurgitated fact, opinion and value judgments without taking the time to think about your research and what it means to the problem.
Developing: You’re doing a good job but you need to do more work to separate fact from opinion.
A lot: You examined your research and questioned its accuracy and relevance to your analysis.

You’ve done the thinking, now how’s your writing?
Not so good: There’s a lack of complete sentences and paragraphs. You have neither proofread nor revised your work. As a result you have way too many errors. You must take future work to the Writing Center.
Good (with room for improvement): Some silly errors and some sentence structure problems detract from what you’re trying to say. Proofread more carefully in future and think about taking your work to the writing center.
Excellent: Very well written with very few errors. Carefully proofread and your thoughts are communicated clearly at all times.

So where are you headed?
Wrong direction: We should talk sooner rather than later.
Right direction: Keep working hard and you’ll get to a good place.

Developed from Washington State University’s Guide to Rating Critical Thinking, June 2003 by Jason Johnstone-Yellin (jasonjy@wsu.edu)
Washington State University Critical Thinking Project
In a good place: Enjoy the moment but don’t stop working hard.